

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Tuesday, December 23, 2003, 9:00 a.m., Legislative Hearing Room 1507, Nebraska State Capitol, 15th & K Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Members: Thomas Laging, V.J. Nelson, Patrick O'Donnell, and Jeff Searcy present. **Jim Hewitt, Karen Kilgarin, and Kim Todd absent.**

Others: Lynn Johnson, Mark Canney, and Jerry Shorney (Parks and Recreation); Ed Zimmer and Michele Abendroth (Planning Dept.)

STATED PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Regular Meeting of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission

Mr. Searcy called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Approval of meeting notes of August 28, 2003

Ms. Nelson moved approval of the August 28, 2003 minutes, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell. Motion carried 4-0. Laging, Nelson, O'Donnell, and Searcy voting 'yes'; Hewitt, Kilgarin and Todd absent.

Maintenance/safety modifications to Centennial Mall (Parks & Recreation Dept.)

Lynn Johnson began by stating that Centennial Mall is in need of some modifications in terms of safety, aesthetics and maintenance. He then introduced Mark Canney. Mr. Canney began with a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Centennial Mall Landscape Proposal*. The location of the project is from R Street to K Street. The issues at hand include safety concerns, accessibility concerns, tree health issues, and the overall aesthetics of the Mall. Mr. Canney then reviewed the existing condition of the project through photographs.

The project proposal includes removing the existing tree boxes (12 per block), improving accessibility by removing the existing meandering walk from the west side and relocating a simplified accessible walk to the east side, replacing empty juniper beds with appropriate drought resistant plant material, and reinforcing the perimeter of the mall with plant material that continues the "green edge".

In terms of project implementation, the work could begin as early as this winter depending on the weather. Improvements will be performed by the Lincoln Parks and Recreation staff. Limited funding will be provided by the Parks Department Capital Improvements Plan. The project will begin with the two north blocks of the project area.

Ms. Nelson asked if there will be a lighting component in the planter boxes. Mr. Shorney stated that the lighting component will be eliminated.

Mr. Laging asked about the location of the handicap accessible walk. Mr. Canney stated that there seemed to be a little more opportunity on the east side in order to make a more straight path. Mr. Laging stated that he believes the path should be as wide as possible.

Mr. O'Donnell complimented the Parks and Recreation Department for being proactive on this project.

Mr. Laging moved to approve the project, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell. Motion carried 4-0. Laging, Nelson, O'Donnell, and Searcy voting 'yes'; Hewitt, Kilgarin and Todd absent.

Mr. Johnson added that when the project begins, they would like to have a press conference and invite the members of the Commission to attend.

2003 Annual Report of the Commission

Mr. Zimmer stated that the statutory requirement of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission is that it meet at least 4 times a year; the Commission met 6 times in 2003. There were substantive issues discussed including the new Antelope Creek Bridge at J Street, demolition plans for two small houses and replacement with apartment houses at 1941 and 1945 K Street, the Lincoln Mall improvements, the renaming of South 15th Street from H to A as Goodhue Boulevard, a new ground sign at First Christian Church, and the Centennial Mall improvements. Items to come include the design/review process, the long-term positioning of Centennial Mall in relation to downtown, and the Antelope Valley project.

Mr. Searcy adjourned the meeting at 9:54 and stated that they will reconvene in Room 1510 for the joint session with the Nebraska Capitol Commission.